

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 MMS-04 EB-11 CU-04 ACDA-19 AGR-20 AID-20

COME-00 OMB-01 OPIC-12 PC-10 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /197 W

----- 036460

R 261412Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1534

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MASS, EC, US

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ECUADOR CASP

REF: STATE 132067

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENTS OFFERED IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST
CONTAINED REFTEL. THEY SHOULD BE ADDED TO FORM 8 IN CASP
SUBMISSION. LEVEL OF CONCERN "L" SHOULD BE PLACED IN BOTH
FY 75 AND 76 BOXES. NO RESOURCES SPECIFICALLY ALLOCATED
THEIR INTERESTS.

2. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ECUADOR

(A) STABILITY OF POLITICAL SYSTEM:

GOE IS STABLE AND DERIVES STRENGTH FROM UNIFIED SUPPORT
OF ARMED FORCES. GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETELY CAPABLE OF
DEALING WITH POLITICAL DISSENT, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT
CONSIDER IT REPRESSIVE BY LA STANDARDS. CIVILIAN
OPPOSITION HAS NO RPT NO CAPACITY TO DISPLACE GOVERN-
MENT AT THIS TIME. LEVEL OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION AND
ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR REGIME IS LIMITED, ALTHOUGH DEGREE
OF POPULAR ACQUIESCENCE IS PROBABLY QUITE HIGH;
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(B) GROWTH OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS:

MILITARY GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RULE BY DECREE. NO ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED. OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO BE ALLOWED TO COMMENT ON GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS ALTHOUGH GOE IS NOT INCLINED TO TOLERATE SIGNIFICANT CRITICISM AND CONTINUES TO ENGAGE IN PERIODIC HARASSMENT OF ITS MORE OUTSPOKEN CITICS. PRESS CONTINUES TO ENJOY RELATIVE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONAL CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE GOE.

(C) RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

GOE OCCASIONALLY JAILS POLITICAL PRISONERS WITHOUT REGARD TO HABEAS CORPUS AND THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONAL LENGTHY DETENTIONS WITHOUT TRIAL (IN ONE INSTANCE A NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER.) RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS ARE RESPECTED AS ARE PROPERTY RIGHTS. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RULE BY DECREE. THERE ARE NO KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN DETENTION AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF OPPOSITIONISTS WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED DURING THE PAST YEAR AND THIS COULD EASILY REOCCUR. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF SERIOUS PRISONER MISTREATMENT.

3. LEVEL OF CONCERN FOR THE FOREGOING INTEREST IS CONSIDERED LOW IN BOTH FY 75 AND FY 76 BECAUSE NO OPPORTUNITY IS FORESEEN FOR ITS FURTHERANCE BY THE US IN THE CASP TIME FRAME. NOR ARE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS FORESEEN.

4. OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH ECUADOR

(A) ACCESS TO ECUADOREAN LEADERSHIP:

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT LEADERS AS WELL AS OPPOSITIONISTS IS GOOD. SIGNIFICANT PEACE CORPS AND USAID PRESENCE IN ADDITION TO NORMAL EMBASSY COMPLEMENT, INCLUDING MILITARY ATTACHES, ENSURES CONTACT WITH BROAD SPECTRUM OF COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP.

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(B) FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION & IDEAS:

DESPITE EXISTENCE OF AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME, FLOW OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS HAS REACHED ALMOST IRREPRESSIBLE STAGE. ECUADOREAN MEDIA HAS COMPLETE ACCESS TO AND USES FULL RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES, SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTS, USG MEDIA PLACEMENTS,

ETC. IN ADDITION, ECUADOREAN LEADERS, ESPECIALLY IN
PROFESSIONAL FIELDS, TRAVEL WIDELY, PARTICULARLY TO
THE U.S.

5. LOW LEVEL OF CONCERN ATTACHED TO THIS INTEREST BECAUSE
NO CHALLENGE IS FORESEEN TO THIS US INTEREST IN CASP TIME
FRAME.
BREWSTER

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